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[COMMITTEE PRINT]

# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, 1954

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REPORT

TO THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BY MR. DAVIS

FROM THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL FUNCTIONS AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS

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## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, 1954

The Department of Defense recently submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives estimates for military construction for the Department of the Air Force. Under Section 805, Public Law 207, 83d Congress and prior agreements with the Department of Defense these items required approval by this Committee prior to the obligation of funds. The requests total $42,508,000. The Committee has approved these requests of the Department of the Air Force. The funds made available are to be allocated as follows:

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| Norton AFB, Calif | $842,000 |
| Little Rock AFB, Ark | 214,000 |
| Warner Robins AFB, Ga | 162,000 |
| Plattsburg AFB, N. Y | 7,031,000 |
| Dover AFB, Del | 2,399,000 |
| Ellsworth AFB, S. Dak | 185,000 |
| Laughlin AFB, Tex | 106,000 |
| Kelly AFB, Tex | 108,000 |
| Lincoln AFB, Neb | 158,000 |
| General Mitchell Field, Wis | 1,656,000 |
| Paine AFB, Wash | 725,000 |
| Tinker AFB, Okla | 4,512,000 |
| Miscellaneous construction | 24,500,000 |
| Total | 42,508,000 |

The funds approved for the specific bases represent the allocation of funds for construction items previously deferred by the Committee. In every instance the Department of the Air Force, by subsequent action, has removed the specific objections of the Committee. For example, the original request of $2,521,000 for Paine Air Force Base, Reserve Training Center was denied on the basis that the cost of $6,070 per acre for the land and certain improvements was too high and needed further study and justification. After further study the Air Force resubmitted this request in the amount of $725,000 which has been allowed by the Committee. Normal cost of such a training facility is approximately $8,000,000. It is now estimated that the cost of the center at Paine AFB, due to reductions made as a result of the further study and joint use of facilities of the Air Defense Command, will be $2,733,600.

Funds were requested for swimming pools at Ellsworth and Laughlin Air Force Bases. The pools are needed for training purposes as well as to alleviate acute recreational problems. While the Committee has allowed these funds in the amount requested it desires that the Air Force restudy the proposed construction with a view toward decreasing the overall cost. The present policy of the Department of Defense provides for the construction of swimming pools entirely from appropriated funds. It would appear that a thorough study should be made of this policy and consideration given to financ-

ing such pools, at least in part, from nonappropriated funds available to the services for recreational and welfare purposes.

An estimate of $4,625,000 for airfield expansion at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, was previously denied by the Committee due to the large and costly land acquisition item of 444 acres at a total cost of $178,000. The present estimate of $4,512,000 contemplates the acquisition of 118 acres in fee and 166 acres in easement at a cost of $65,050. The Committee has approved the revised estimate based on assurances of the Air Force that this will satisfy the presently contemplated operational requirement at this base. In this connection the following excerpt from the hearing is shown:

Mr. DAVIS. When you say you have scaled it down, you have reviewed it, and you have decided that this request will accomplish the purpose and the mission there; is that correct?

Colonel PRICE. This will satisfy the immediate requirement for operation of the runway at Tinker Air Force Base, and that includes the connecting taxiway, yes, sir.

Mr. DAVIS. We are safe in assuming, then, that instead of 444 acres of land at a cost of $178,000, as originally presented to us, that we now have in lieu of that a request for $65,050 for the purchase of approximately 118 acres in fee and 166 acres in avigation easement?

Colonel PRICE. That is correct.